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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. To replace the difficult overland route from Kashgar to P'uli, the Chinese Communists have completed an airfield at P'uli (Tash Kurghan, 75-14, 37-47) in Sinkiang Province. The first Communist aircraft, a Dakota, landed at the field during the third week of May 1950. The field is two miles long and half a mile wide.
2. The Chinese Communists, with Soviet aid, are also building a motor road from P'uli to the Mintaka Pass on the border of Hunza. The terrain, being fairly flat, offers few obstructions to such a road.
3. The motor road from Kashgar to the Soviet border at Irkishstam (73-53, 39-40) is now ready for use; and the railroad from Ili* to Urumchi is also nearing completion.**
4. The fort at P'uli is garrisoned by 100 local soldiers under the command of a Kirghiz Muslim. There are no Chinese or Soviet soldiers at the fort at present.*** The Communist outposts on the borders of Hunza have only about 14 soldiers each.**** A new such post has been established in Oprang, which is on the way to Shimshal and the Raskum valley in Hunza. Communist aircraft make daily patrol flights to the Hunza borders.

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* Comment. Ili could be the same as Suiting (80-49, 44-03), Huiyuan (80-59, 44-03), or Kuldja (81-14, 43-55). It is believed to be the latter.

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** Comment. a rail project to link Kuldja and Urumchi. However, even if there were such a project, its role with respect to the Irkishstam-Kashgar motor road is not readily understandable.

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*** Comment. most of these soldiers were Chinese.

**** Comment. The Communists no longer need to keep large forces at P'uli or at the Hunza border posts. Such forces can now be flown to these places in a few hours by air.

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**** Comment. The report does not make clear whether or not the border posts are also garrisoned with "local soldiers."

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